

MARVELLOUS PROGRESS OF A NEW TOWN

Hobart, Twenty Days Old, Wonder of Oklahoma.

IS A PERFECT BEEHIVE

Built on Solid Foundation in a Substantial Country.

Hobart, O. T., Aug. 31.—Beautifully located on one of those fine prairies that are noted for their fertility of soil and abundance of timber, eight miles south from Waukomis, and three miles from those majestic mountains of the Wichita range, lies the great commercial center of the county seat of Kiowa county, named in honor of our dead ex-Vice President Hobart.

Although but some twenty days old it has the appearance of being a town that may number its months and years among the city of a far more ancient country. It is with pride that these present inhabitants can refer to the fact that they were the pioneers that must needs have those essentials of energy which it takes in order to erect a beautiful, thriving city of three thousand people in the remarkable time of twenty days.

Should these lovers of nature wish to receive a sublime thought and get near to that point wherein they can feel all nature speaking, as Bryant said, "in her visible forms," that person, if not to visit the city, should make a trip to Hobart to see and feel that beautiful gift of God—nature. As far as the horizon will allow, to the north the level plains extend, creating a picture upon the retina not unlike that produced by the boundless heavens, a picture of abstracted space, the altitudes being a series of undulating hills that upon their firm which very few agriculturalists long for to see improvements.

And now to turn our gaze to the opposite direction—south. There, towering above the southern sky in all the magnificence of a mountain could, that rough and crazy range, the Wichita. To one not accustomed to the sight of mountains they fit him spellbound as he gazes notes the clouds swirling through the tall forest, the peaks and ridges, their base, all showing that elements of American scenery that has taken the poetical heart to wandering paths skyward.

Some day these same mountains will be compelled through the unrelenting labor of man to yield up their hidden treasures and then Hobart, Oh, then!

To the west and east these same mountains gradually sink to become hills. Then to merge into the prairie hills.

The Elk river, which has just west of Hobart one mile, flows its way over its crooked course directly through the mountains on the south to the Red river, then strikes water in plenty to the country in general. As to the production of the soil around Hobart, beyond what he would say only to state that he can raise any kind of grain, hay, cotton, fruit and even vegetables, you might be lucky enough to have the opportunity to do so.

The inhabitants of Kiowa county hail from every state in the union and some from under a foreign flag. But owing to all of this a more homelike community wherein to place ourselves and family never were thrown together. One desiring used not look for friends and land in vain. And should it be the pleasure of your correspondent to meet these present determined settlers again their friendship will not be forgotten. And now we wish to direct those people who are holding these paragraphs to go to Hobart, see for yourselves and if you are looking for a place wherein to locate you will not come away without associating yourselves with this fine town in the best country there is on the surface of a new prairie land.

Kiowa county, besides being blessed by so generous a share of people has realized through the sale of lots in its county seat the best sum of \$12,723. Commissioner Holcomb of Virginia being in charge of the sales.

The good reason of so great a sum being placed in Kiowa county's credit is the fact that Col. A. J. James of Kansas City, Kansas, was employed by the government to administer the sale. Col. James is a thoroughly good man and well deserves the handsome prize awarded him through his hard working work. Twenty no one could have equaled the quick, ready and efficient manner in which Kiowa county is truly indebted to this man, a descendant of the famous James family. May he prosper in the wishes of all.

Hobart is needed for some of the best business men in Oklahoma, all having the one idea, that of making Hobart the metropolis of southern Oklahoma.

Among the gentlemen, when it was in pleasure to meet were Messrs. Dill and Wolfinger, owners of the Kiowa State Bank. Mrs. D. H. Dill, the president of the bank, is a lawyer, having lived in Missouri since the opening of the strip and is widely known as a good lawyer.

Mr. Wolfinger, a banker, is the secretary of the Kiowa National bank and a townsman, and of which company is the general agent.

The Kiowa National bank is the only national bank in the county. A. J. Dunlop, president; H. A. Lamberson, vice president; T. T. Chandler, cashier. Mr. T. T. Chandler, a banker, is the secretary of the Kiowa National bank and a townsman, and of which company is the general agent.

These gentlemen have lived in this country some time now, and the first National bank of Mountain View.

Marble, finally, a familiar face in all Oklahoma, is the notable judge. The judge presided over the trial of the late Governor Richards, and is now in the old building of the State Penitentiary.

Gov. M. M. Miller is minister of the Kiowa school, having a large new building and well equipped. He is almost omnipresent where the new court house will be built.

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Judge A. C. Holland, Perry's first mayor, is here to stay and is making some good investments and by the way is mentioned as probably the first mayor of Hobart.

Lank J. Foster, the merchant prince of Kiowa county, is here and in town, too. He is building a fine store room on one of the combination lots and is going to open up soon with a fine stock of dry goods.

Edmund Bros., have a general store on lot 11 between 25, facing north to the court house. These gentlemen are known as one of the combination crowd having pooled with the gentlemen and bought four lots facing east and four facing west and then suddenly switched them to face the square, thereby making them among the best property in Hobart.

A. C. Hippen & Sons bought lot 22, block 28, on the corner of the square, containing 2.25 acres. They are told by everybody that they have the best corner in town. Mr. Hippen is an old time merchant from Pekin, Illinois.

F. B. Hort, clerk of the district and deputy treasurer is here from Chandler and is located in his premises of Hobart.

James A. Hale, member of the board of county commissioners and right away man for the Orient railroad is seen here on the streets with that big, broad smile and they all say he can tell you where he has rode the whole country on horseback since he was a boy.

W. L. Alexander & Co. are one of the strong firms of Hobart. Real estate, loans and abstracts. Mr. W. L. Alexander is the present county treasurer of Oklahoma county. His term of office expires October 1 and he is going to make this his home. The firm have a complete abstract of the sale of government lands and the names and addresses of real owners. Their office is two doors north of the Kiowa State bank.

Mr. Montgomery says when you want to see him, he's right across from Fink's place. Mr. Montgomery has large real estate interests in the city.

Davis Ferguson & Son are the proprietors of the City hotel. They are all old timers out here and everything is nice and neat about their home.

Mr. C. D. Given and G. P. Wilcoxson comprise the Mercantile company. They own lot one and two, block 28, South Side and are a part of the combination right. They also have a big store at Granite. These gentlemen are willing to divide their money to push Hobart to the front.

South & Morris is the big wholesale and retail drug, feed and commission firm. are Kiowa's gentlemen and are located on lot 25, block 22, East Side.

Geo. P. Miller of Kansas City, who was lately married to one of Kansas City's most beautiful girls, is the proud owner of lot 26, block 22, paying therefor \$65.

Mr. Miller is one of the coming big hard-work men of Hobart.

Mr. Wm. C. Korte of Chicago is proprietor of the Bon Ton confectionery and is the proud owner of lot 21, block 15.

G. A. Blagg, formerly with Huber Bros. of Granite, is now in business for himself here, on the north side of the square. Shelf and heavy hardware, and tin shop in connection.

The E. S. McCall, the corner of some of the best Hobart real estate, is a big hardware store on lot 17 and 18 in block 21, just in the rear of the Hobart National bank.

Mr. McCall built from Coconia, Texas. When you look you can't buy lumber in Hobart, that's a mistake, for you see there are some lumber yards here and good ones, too.

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WOMAN WHO HAS FORTUNE IN STOCKING

Governor Richards Tells About Opening of New Country.

FIGURES ON LOT SALES

Regards Lawton Active Candidate for the Capital.

Washington, Aug. 31.—During our sale of lots the other day in Lawton there was brisk bidding on a piece of corner property adjacent to the school reserve land," said Assistant Land Commissioner W. A. Richards yesterday, having just returned from three months' tour in Oklahoma territory, where he has been laying out town sites and directing the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche reservations. "One of the bidders was a woman wearing a calico dress and a sunbonnet. The figure offered climbed higher and higher, till finally it reached \$5,000. It was a 25-foot front and the site was even higher than the school reserve land, and the woman reached down to her pocket and pulled out a mighty roll of greenbacks. The government, you know, requires cash payments on all sale of land. She counted out \$5,000 in money and passed it up to the land office clerk. She had a good deal left after she had paid for her property."

"That is only one example of illustrating the zeal with which people are buying real estate in these future cities of Oklahoma," continued the assistant commissioner, as he opened out on the desk before him the maps of the towns of Lawton, Hobart and Andover, all of which towns he has been laying out just as E. Lawton laid out the plan of Washington city more than one hundred years ago.

"Take the sale over in Hobart. We offered a certain lot in the business section of that town the other day and there were many bidders on hand. The price went up steadily, but among the bidders was a man who kept pace with all the others, and always went a little higher. At last the others got tired and the lot, also 25-foot front, went to him at \$2,500. He drew out of his pocket four bunches of bills, each containing \$500, and counted off \$2,500."

"You came determined to get that property," I remarked to him.

"Well, I had \$100 more I could have paid for it," he replied to me. He wanted the lot for a wholesale jewelry store, and was ready to pay almost any price to get it."

"Although it looks to me as though this land in the new towns might prove a good investment," said Mr. Richards, "although it is going for such large prices. The people who buy are of a good, substantial class of citizens. They are not looking for the money to be made in the country and in participating in its development. Most of them come from the southwest—from Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska and neighboring states. They have money and are industrious. Few seem to be buying for speculation, for such unscrupulous men would not be so ready to pay so much for a lot after they buy, even for a good profit. I think it is a conservative estimate that the amount of the real estate sales in the three towns of Lawton, Hobart and Andover will aggregate \$250,000. The sales in Lawton, which I regard as the finest town of all, have already exceeded \$200,000, and go to \$400,000 at least. The sales at Hobart now exceed \$100,000, and will go to \$200,000. In Andover the government has already disposed of land that brought \$100,000. Before the government auction sales conclude, at the end of August, I believe they will have reached \$200,000."

"The proceeds of these sales of town-site lots, after the government has been repaid for its outlay, go to the counties. They will have a neat sum with which to begin business. Andover is the only town of the three which takes its name from an Oklahoma locality. It is more permanent and more frequent. The orchards, although not many of them are very large, seem to be in a flourishing condition, and are healthy looking, giving promise of Pawnee county as the future great fruit growing section of the state."

"Lawton, I repeat, is a very active candidate in the future for the capital, although El Reno will be in the field and will contest the honor vigorously. At present Lawton is thirty miles from the railroad, but the Rock Island is building in there as fast as men can grade the road, and it is not far from the city. The road is being built as straight as an arrow, and before long will reach the new town. The contractors cut rubbly through hills and all in ravines without regard to expense, the purpose seeming to be to have a permanent and lasting road, so that there will be no necessity hereafter for straightening the tracks and otherwise improving the line as traffic increases."

"The population of the territory has naturally increased enormously with the coming of so many settlers, and they have brought a great deal of money with them. Accordingly, business has been on the boom. I regard it as a very conservative estimate that the town of El Reno alone has taken in nearly \$200,000 from those new settlers during the last few weeks. There were about 12,000 arrivals in El Reno, and it is a very low estimate that every one of them spent at least 15c before getting out of the town."

"To the credit of Oklahoma it should be said that they did not hit the country with a flood of money. The money was not so much as it was in the case of the territory of the future. The law recently provided that the receipts must be transmitted daily to the treasury at St. Louis, but at Lawton, for instance, we were three miles away from the railroad. There were some lawless men about, but they were not so numerous as in the territory. The law was not so strict as it is now, and the people were not so well educated as they are now. The law was not so strict as it is now, and the people were not so well educated as they are now."

"We were a little anxious about the handling of so much money at Lawton, and we came to it through the sale of lands. The law recently provided that the receipts must be transmitted daily to the treasury at St. Louis, but at Lawton, for instance, we were three miles away from the railroad. There were some lawless men about, but they were not so numerous as in the territory. The law was not so strict as it is now, and the people were not so well educated as they are now."

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